strike in the month of April this year demanding proper investigation into the alleged murder of their colleague Shri K.M. Babu whose partially burnt body was recovered from the Connaught Place Telephone Exchange building on April, 17; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action was taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Some of the staff members staged lunch-hour demonstrations at Khurshid Lal Bhavan demanding proper investigation into the alleged murder of their colleague Shri K.M. Babu.

(b) The matter is under investigation by Delhi Police.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

MTNL records destroyed in Chander Lok Fire

1. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 23rd June, 1997 under the heading Records implicating MTNL top brass burnt in Chander Lok fire.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pertaining to tender scam in MTNL which has been under probe of the CBI alongwith the names of officials involved therein, which have since been destroyed on account of fire; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The documents pertaining the case referred to in the Press Clipping of Indian Express dated the 23rd June, 1997 were taken into custody by the CBI officials on 5th June, 1997 pertaining to the offices of Superintending Engineer (C-C) and Executive Engineer (C-V) before the occurence of fire on 17th June, 1997 (F/N). Some more documents were taken by the CBI on 17th June, 1997 (A/N) from the office of Executive Engineer (C-I), MTNL, New Delhi whose office is located in the TE building/ CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi.

(c) There is only one case registered by CBI. The MTNL officials against whom CBI is conducting the enquiry given in Para (b) are Shri Kul Bhushan, Superintending Engineer, Shri H.R. Kaushik, the then Executive Engineer (EE) and Shri R.C. Arora, Executive Engineer, HQ.

(d) This decision for further course of action will be taken, on receipt of report of the CBI and in consultation with the CBI.

Internet facilities at the affordable cost

2. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to provide Internet facilities at the affordable cost in view of its popularity and usefulness;

(b) whether VSNL will be able to cater the increasing demand for Internet connection;

(c) whether Government are aware that the users of Internet has lot of complaint that they are not able to